

PORTLAND GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY

ORDER NO. EA-97-A

BACKGROUND

Exports of electricity from the United States to a foreign country are regulated and require authorization under section 202(e) of the Federal Power Act (FPA) (16 U.S.C. §824a(e)).

On April 29, 1994, in Order EA-97, the Office of Fossil Energy (FE) of the Department of Energy (DOE) authorized San Diego Gas & Electric Company (SDG&E) to transmit electric energy from the United States to British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority (BC Hydro) on a non-firm basis at a maximum rate of transmission of 400 megawatts (MW). The authorization expires on April 29, 1996. The order stipulated that the authorization would be effective for two years from the date of the Order and that SDG&E could, within six months prior to the expiration of the authorization, reapply for renewal of the authorization for a period of time longer than the original two year period.

On November 1, 1995, PG&E filed an application with FE for renewal of this authorization to export electric energy to BC Hydro, but did not request DOE to extend the export authority for a period longer than two years. The exported energy would continue to be delivered to Canada over transmission facilities owned by the Bonneville Power Administration.

Notice of the PGE export application was placed in the Federal Register on November 22, 1995, (60 FR 56148) soliciting comments, protests, and petitions to intervene. None were received.

FINDING

The circumstances described in the PG&E's application are virtually identical to those for which export authority has previously been granted in FE Order No. EA-97. Consequently, DOE finds the electric reliability review prepared in FE Docket EA-97 is satisfactory in fulfilling the statutory requirements of the FPA. Specifically, that finding determined that the export of electric energy to Canada as requested by PGE would not impair the sufficiency of electric supply within the United States and would not impede or tend to impede the coordination in the public interest of facilities in accordance with section 202(e) of the FPA.

Similarly, DOE finds that it has adequately satisfied its responsibility under the National Environment Policy Act of 1969 through the documentation of a categorical exclusion in the FE-Docket EA-97 proceeding.

ORDER

Based on the above findings, the electricity export authorization issued to Portland General Electric Company on April 29, 1994, in Order EA-97, is amended by replacing the ordering language contained in paragraph (D) with the following:

(D) This authorization shall be effective until April 29, 1998. Within six months prior to the expiration of this authorization, PGE may reapply for renewal of the authorization for a period of time longer than this two year period.

Issued in Washington, D.C., on February 9, 1996.

Anthony J. Como
Director
Office of Coal & Electricity
Office of Fuels Programs
Office of Fossil Energy